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THE
MONTHLY



GUILL
BULLETIN

Volume 43 Berkeley, California February, 1961 Number 2

ACTION YOU CAN TAKE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE NEW YEAR

"Culverting" of the Sacramento River is the writer's term for the rock-walling of miles of once lovely, tree-lined river bank which made travel up the river by boat or along the River Road, Highway 24, by car one of the outstanding scenic adventures in the low country of North Central California. When the army engineers took over with flood control measures, scenic and wildlife habitat values went down the drain. Recently, however, sportsmen, boat owners, motorists and finally some members of the press have risen in protest. Now it is admitted that at some additional expense much of this natural landscape of trees and shrubs can be spared as the work of protecting the river bank continues. But more than just the environment of the boat anchorages should be spared. Audubon members who value scenery and wildlife should make their feelings known to Governor Edmund G. Brown, at once!

Your California State Park Commission has just submitted to Governor Brown a program of land acquisition and expansion of picnicking and beach facilities throughout the state. This program includes an expenditure over a five-year period of \$23,000,000 in Northern California. Development of the Sacramento River project and improvements in Mt. Diablo State Park are among priority projects. We would like our governor and legislators to consider the \$75,000,000 parkland bond issue which New York State voters overwhelmingly endorsed. We, like the Empire State, face acute problems in assuring adequate recreational space for future citizens. A letter to your assemblyman and state senator can help put this program over.

Keep alert for appeals to contact your congressman on bills dealing with water pollution, toxic pesticides, and the continued appalling rate of wetlands disappearance. Aileen Pierson's report on the National Audubon Convention emphasized the graveness of these issues.

PAUL COVEL, Conservation Chairman

SPECIMEN HUNTING IN MEXICO

During the Christmas holidays, John Ralph and Richard Stallcup of Golden Gate Audubon Society made a trip to southwestern Mexico along with fourteen other boys from the University of California and other schools in the Bay Area. One of the chief purposes of the trip was to collect herpetological specimens for the University's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Among the many species collected were large iguanas of two types. One is the orange or green iguana which grows up to five and one-half feet in length. These were caught by persons climbing into seventy-five foot trees and shaking the animals out to be caught by people waiting on the ground. The other is the hard-biting, spiny-tailed iguana which grows to two and one-half feet in length. These were caught in the rocks.

Among the other animals collected were many of special interest and rarity. There was a species of fish-eating bat taken in San Blas 500 miles north of the known limits of its range, and the first males of a species of frog taken in the states of Colima and Jalisco.

The iguanas are currently on exhibit at the Rotary Science Center at Lakeside Park and are attracting many visitors.

TEN-DAY FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA AND THE CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS

During the period May 20 to May 30, 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Adamson plan to visit the Chiricahua Mountains, Guadalupe Canyon, which is east of Douglas, the region around Patagonia and the Tucson area. This will be a mobile camping trip designed specifically to see as many of the interesting birds as is possible during that period of time. As in the past, they are extending an invitation for interested persons to join them, although the number must of necessity be few. As a matter of mobility the group should not exceed 15.

A person who has never birded in this region should see between 35 and 50 new life birds. Six species of hummingbirds alone were seen on the last trip, including the rare Violet-crowned Hummer.

Everyone will be responsible for his own transportation, food, shelter, etc. Motels may be available on a couple of occasions, but camping out is mandatory for at least four nights. (Whip-poor-wills are guaranteed to serenade you!) For information, write or telephone Harry Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette, California - Atlantic 3-2164.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: From Berkeley - Mrs. Ruth J. Newell and Miss Mary T. Underhill; from El Cerrito - Mrs. Owao Masuda; from Oakland - Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Bunnelle, Mrs. Hazel Ebner, and Mr. Norman Hutchings; from San Francisco - Mr. and Mrs. Arnold G. Mortensen, and Miss Shirley G. Walton; and from Walnut Creek - Mr. Clyde Harden; from Concord - Mrs. Glen H. Shanks.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, Membership Chairman

HAVE FUN IN 1961!

Now is the time to make reservations for any of the four National Audubon camps which are conducted in Maine, Wisconsin, Connecticut and California. The California Camp is at Sugar Bowl in the high Sierra, near Donner Pass. It offers an opportunity for indelible impressions of Nature's oneness, an experience of which every Audubon camper can say, "You CAN take it with you!" Reservations for Sugar Bowl are now being received at the Berkeley office, 2426 Bancroft Way, for all of the following sessions.

- I. June 25 - July 8, 1961. II. July 9 - July 22, 1961.
- III. July 23 - August 5, 1961. IV. August 6 - August 19, 1961.
- V. August 20 - September 2, 1961.

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

On Sunday, February 5, to Richardson Bay and other Marin Peninsula points. We shall visit the Richardson Bay Wildlife Refuge established through the efforts of the Richardson Bay Foundation and the National Audubon Society. This area was patrolled by an Audubon warden, Mr. John O. Larson, Jr., during the last waterfowl hunting season. Last year, John entertained our society with a talk on the history of the Victorian house restored by Mrs. Donald Dickey, and the bird population occupying the sanctuary during the winter months. He estimated 22,000 birds were present on the day of our last field trip, January 30, 1960.

Belvedere, San Quentin and San Pedro Points (McNear's Beach) will, also, be visited if time permits. Meet at the parking area just north of the Richardson Bay Bridge on U.S. Highway 101, at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader - Elizabeth S. Lennon, EDgewater 2-1641.

On Thursday, February 9, to Lake Merritt. This will be the second week-day field trip. The lake is a good place to observe many species of water birds at close range. Some unusual birds may also be seen in the pens and on display in the dome. A visit to the Rotary Natural Science Center is interesting and educational. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center in Lakeside Park near the feeding area, at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, warm clothing, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends. Leader - Lee Stallcup, LO 9-3185.

On Saturday, February 18, to Thornton and areas west of Lodi. The main feature of this trip is the spectacular views of Sandhill Cranes. In addition, ducks, geese, Gallinule and White-tailed Kite may be seen on farmlands and adjacent ponds. A side trip to Courtland to view Long-eared Owls will be made if the owls cooperate. Meet in the town of Thornton, which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Allow 2-1/2 hours driving time from the Bay Area. The distance to Thornton is about 80 miles. Bring binoculars, telescopes, warm clothing, lunch and interested friends. Leader - Harold G. Peterson, LO 8-7534. On Sunday, February 19, the trip will be repeated. Leader - Phil Smith, LO 9-9451.

On Saturday, February 25, to San Francisco Zoo and Lake Merced. Meet at the north entrance to Fleishhacker Zoo and Sloat Boulevard at 9:15 a.m. After covering the zoo area, a circuit of Lake Merced will be made to see waterfowl and landbirds in the shrubs bordering the lake. This area usually affords good views of Allen Hummingbirds, Marsh Wrens, and Townsend's Warblers. Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebe were seen last year from the fishing bridge. A White-winged Scoter was also one of the highlights of the day. Leader - Aileen Pierson, JU 7-4163.

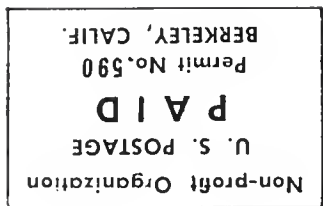
HAROLD G. PETERSON, Field Trips Chairman

FEBRUARY MEETING

The 515th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, February 9, at 7:30 p.m. in San Francisco, at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum, Roosevelt Way and 16th St. (Take #43 bus at Market and 16th Street.) Our speaker will be Mr. John Thomas Howell, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences, on the subject of DEATH VALLEY AND ITS WILD FLOWERS. The popularity of this speaker should bring many members and their friends to this meeting.

MABEL EARLE, Program Chairman

Library, California Academy of
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San Francisco 18, California



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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.50 per year.

Visit the Conservation Resource Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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